



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Division of Workers' Compensation - Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MS-48)

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name

TEXAS BONE AND JOINT CENTER

Respondent Name

WC SOLUTIONS

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-15-3004-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

MFDR Date Received

May 15, 2015

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "This bill was originally processed on 05-21-14 ITN 00855849 and reconsidered on 7-08-14 ITN 00867725.

Per Rule 133.307(c), when a provider is dissatisfied with the carrier's response to a request for reconsideration, the provider may file with the Division a request for a medical dispute resolution within one year of the date of service."

Amount in Dispute: \$377.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The CPT code 97001 for date of service 11/13/2013 was denied on reconsideration with the CARC reduction code of 29 and with EOB comments of:

29 – Per rule 133.20(b), except as provided in Labor Code 408.0272(b), (c) or (d), a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.

PLEASE NOTE: CARRIER'S INITIAL RECEIPT OF BILL ON 11/25/13 WAS RETURNED TO THE PROVIDER ON 12/11/13 DUE TO THE FACT THE REQUIRED INFORMATION WAS NOT COMPLETE – "G" CODES, EFFECTIVE 07/01/13, WERE MISSING.

CARRIER DID NOT RECEIVE COMPLETE REQUEST UNTIL 05/07/14."

Response Submitted by: STARR COMPREHESIVE SOLUTIONS INC

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
November 13, 2013	CPT Code 97001, G8984, G8987 and G8990	\$377.00	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and applicable rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20 sets out medical bill submission procedures for health care providers.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4 establishes rules for non-Commission communications.
4. Texas Labor Code §408.027 sets out provisions related to payment of health care providers.
5. Texas Labor Code §408.0272 provides for certain exceptions to untimely submission of a medical claim.
6. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
 - 29 – THE TIME LIMIT FOR FILING HAS EXPIRED
 - 29 – PER RULE 133.20(b), EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN LABOR CODE 408.0272(b), (c) or (d), A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SHALL NOT SUBMIT A MEDICAL BILL LATER THAN THE 95TH DAY AFTER THE DATE THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED
 - W3 – ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENT MADE ON RECONSIDERATION
 - 193 – ORIGINAL PAYMENT DECISION IS BEING MAINTAINED. THIS CLAIM WAS PROCESSED THE FIRST TIME

Issues

1. What is the timely filing deadline applicable to the medical bills for the services in dispute?
2. Did the requestor forfeit the right to reimbursement for the services in dispute?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier denied the disputed services with claim adjustment reason codes: 29 – “THE TIME LIMIT FOR FILING HAS EXPIRED.”; 29 – “PER RULE 133.20(b), EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN LABOR CODE 408.0272(b), (c) or (d), A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SHALL NOT SUBMIT A MEDICAL BILL LATER THAN THE 95TH DAY AFTER THE DATE THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED”; W3 – “ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENT MADE ON RECONSIDERATION” and 193 – “ORIGINAL PAYMENT DECISION IS BEING MAINTAINED. THIS CLAIM WAS PROCESSED THE FIRST TIME.” 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(b) requires that, except as provided in Texas Labor Code §408.0272, “a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.” Texas Labor Code §408.0272(b) provides that:

Notwithstanding Section 408.027, a health care provider who fails to timely submit a claim for payment to the insurance carrier under Section 408.027(a) does not forfeit the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment solely for failure to submit a timely claim if:

- (1) the provider submits proof satisfactory to the commissioner that the provider, within the period prescribed by Section 408.027(a), erroneously filed for reimbursement with:
 - (A) an insurer that issues a policy of group accident and health insurance under which the injured employee is a covered insured;
 - (B) a health maintenance organization that issues an evidence of coverage under which the injured employee is a covered enrollee; or
 - (C) a workers' compensation insurance carrier other than the insurance carrier liable for the payment of benefits under this title; or
- (2) the commissioner determines that the failure resulted from a catastrophic event that substantially interfered with the normal business operations of the provider.

Review of the submitted documentation found does not support any of the exceptions described in Texas Labor Code §408.0272 apply to the services in this dispute. For that reason, the health care provider was required to submit the medical bill not later than 95 days after the date the disputed services were provided.

2. Texas Labor Code §408.027(a) states that "Failure by the health care provider to timely submit a claim for payment constitutes a forfeiture of the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment." 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4(h) states that:

Unless the great weight of evidence indicates otherwise, written communications shall be deemed to have been sent on:

- (1) the date received, if sent by fax, personal delivery or electronic transmission or,
- (2) the date postmarked if sent by mail via United States Postal Service regular mail, or, if the postmark date is unavailable, the later of the signature date on the written communication or the date it was received minus five days. If the date received minus five days is a Sunday or legal holiday, the date deemed sent shall be the next previous day which is not a Sunday or legal holiday.

Review of the submitted documentation finds it does not support that a medical bill was submitted within 95 days from the date the services were provided. Consequently, the requestor has forfeited the right to reimbursement due to untimely submission of the medical bill, pursuant to Texas Labor Code §408.027(a).

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

6/19/15
Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, *37 Texas Register 3833*, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MFDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.